

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently Amended)

A sealing arrangement ~~(2, 28, 40, 47)~~ which seals at least one radial interspace ~~(21)~~ between at least one inner bearing ring ~~(3, 41, 52)~~ and at least one outer bearing ring ~~(5, 33, 42, 49)~~, the radial interspace being a region where neither bearings nor bearing rings axially overlap, it being the case that the sealing arrangement (2, 28, 40, 47) comprising

- ~~is provided with~~ at least a first support ~~(17, 30, 43, 48a)~~, the first support ~~(17, 30, 43, 48a)~~ bearing at least one elastic seal ~~(18, 34, 39, 44, 51)~~,
- ~~has a~~ second support ~~(19, 32, 37, 45, 48b)~~, the second support ~~(19, 32, 37, 45, 48b)~~ bearing at least one encoder ~~(10)~~ arranged outside the interspace ~~(21)~~, and the encoder ~~(10)~~ being oriented radially toward at least one sensor ~~(14)~~ arranged above the encoder ~~(10)~~ in the radially outward direction,
- ~~has a~~ dirt deflector ~~(23, 31, 53)~~ on the inner bearing ring ~~(3, 41, 52)~~, the dirt deflector ~~(23, 31, 53)~~ and the first support ~~(17, 30, 43, 48a)~~ being arranged such that they can be rotated relative to one another, and the seal ~~(18, 34, 39, 44, 51)~~ butting at least against the dirt deflector ~~(23, 31, 53)~~,

~~characterized in that wherein~~ the encoder engages around the inner bearing ring, and in that the encoder ~~(10)~~ is covered fully at least in the radial direction and at least partially in the axial direction by means of a covering element ~~(20, 29, 48)~~, the covering element ~~(20, 29, 48)~~ being rotationally fixed on one of the bearing rings ~~(3, 5, 33, 41, 42, 49, 52)~~, and

wherein neither the encoder nor the sensor penetrate into the interspace.

2. (Currently Amended)

The sealing arrangement as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the covering element ~~(20, 29, 48)~~ at least partially covers the seal ~~(18, 34, 39, 44, 51)~~.

3. (Currently Amended)

The sealing arrangement as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the covering element ~~(20, 29, 48)~~ is formed integrally with the first support ~~(17, 30, 48a)~~ made of sheet metal.

4. (Currently Amended)

The sealing arrangement as claimed in claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the covering element ~~(20)~~ is fixed on a radially outer surface section ~~(5a)~~ of the outer bearing ring ~~(5)~~.

5. (Currently Amended)

The sealing arrangement as claimed in claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the covering element ~~(29, 48)~~ is fixed on an inner surface of the outer bearing ring ~~(33, 49)~~.

6. (Currently Amended)

The sealing arrangement as claimed in claim 4, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein, starting from the outer bearing ring ~~(5, 33, 49)~~, the covering element ~~(20, 29, 48)~~ first of all extends axially away from the outer bearing ring ~~(5, 33, 49)~~ and radially between the sensor ~~(14)~~ and the encoder ~~(10)~~, and covers the encoder ~~(01)~~ in the radial direction in the process, in that the covering element ~~(20, 29, 48)~~ then extends radially inward and covers

the encoder {10} and the interspace {21} in the axial direction in the process, and in that the covering element {20, 29, 48}, finally, extends axially in the direction of rolling bodies {6} and accommodates the seal {18, 34, 51}.

7. (Currently Amended)

The sealing arrangement as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the covering element {48} is formed integrally with the second support {48b}.

8. (Currently Amended)

The sealing arrangement as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the dirt deflector {23, 31} and the second support {19, 32} are formed in one piece from sheet metal.

9. (Currently Amended)

The sealing arrangement as claimed in claim 8, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein, starting from the dirt deflector {23, 31}, and arranged radially between the seal {18, 34} and the inner bearing ring {3, 52}, the second support {19, 32} is first of all oriented axially in the direction of rolling bodies {6} and then runs radially outward away from the inner bearing ring {3, 52}, between the rolling bodies {6} and the seal {18, 34}, and in that the second support {19, 32}, finally, is oriented axially in the direction of the covering element {20, 29} and has the encoder {10}.

10. (Currently Amended)

The sealing arrangement as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the dirt deflector and the covering element {46} are formed in one piece.

11. (Currently Amended)

The sealing arrangement as claimed in claim 10, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the covering element ~~(46)~~ first of all is seated firmly on the inner bearing ring ~~(41)~~ and then extends radially outward from the inner bearing ring ~~(41)~~, the covering element ~~(46)~~ engaging partially around the outer bearing ring ~~(42)~~ in the radially outward direction, it being spaced apart radially from the outer bearing ring ~~(42)~~.

12. (Currently Amended)

The sealing arrangement as claimed in claim 10, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the encoder ~~(10)~~ is arranged radially between the outer bearing ring ~~(42)~~ and the covering element ~~(46)~~.

13. (Currently Amended)

The sealing arrangement as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the encoder ~~(10)~~ is fixed on the outer bearing ring ~~(42)~~ in the radially outward direction.

14. (Currently Amended)

The sealing arrangement as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the seal ~~(18, 34, 44, 51)~~ butts axially against the dirt deflector ~~(23, 31, 53)~~ by way of at least one sealing lip ~~(22, 34a, 44b, 44c, 51c)~~.

15. (Currently Amended)

The sealing arrangement as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the seal ~~(18, 34, 39, 51)~~ butts radially against the dirt deflector ~~(23, 31, 53)~~ by way of at least one sealing lip ~~(22, 34b, 34c, 51b)~~.

16. (Currently Amended)

The sealing arrangement as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the seal ~~(44, 51)~~ butts directly against the inner bearing ring ~~(41, 52)~~ by way of at least one sealing lip ~~(44d, 51a)~~.

17. (Currently Amended)

The sealing arrangement as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the seal ~~(18, 34)~~ and the dirt deflector ~~(23, 31)~~ enclose between them an annular cavity ~~(25, 35, 36)~~ filled with a lubricating grease.